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# Working Towards Justice: How Can Volunteering be Wrong?

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# Working Towards Justice: How Can Volunteering Be Wrong?

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# What is volunteering?

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# Charity

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1. Responds to immediate needs
  - Food, shelter, clothing
2. Provides direct service
3. Responds to problem's symptoms
4. Short-term relief
5. Vertical Structure
  - Help people who are less fortunate



# Social Justice

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1. Seeks a long-term solution
2. Focuses on the root causes
3. Advocates for just public policies
4. Long process
5. Horizontal structure
  - Everybody working together





# Discussion Questions:

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Is this an effective model?

Is one foot more important than the other?

Do you see this model utilized in the United States? How?

In 2015, how many people in the  
United States volunteered?

62.6 Million People

*Source: Corporation for National & Community Service*



In 2015, how many hours of service  
were conducted in the United  
States?

7.8 Billion Hours

*Source: Corporation for National & Community Service*

In 2015, what was the total monetary value of volunteering in the United States?

Approximately \$184 Billion

*Source: Corporation for National & Community Service*

# If the monetary value of volunteering represented a country's GDP, it would rank...

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49. Peru \$192,094 (in millions)

50. Romania \$186,691

51. New Zealand \$185,017

➡ U.S. Volunteering \$184,000

52. Iraq \$171,489

53. Algeria \$156,080

54. Qatar \$152,469

# If the monetary value of volunteering represented a company, it would rank...

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11. McKesson      \$198,533 (in millions)

12. BP      \$186,606

13. UnitedHealth      \$184,840

➡ U.S. Volunteering      \$184,000

14. CVS Health      \$177,526

15. Samsung Electronics      \$173,957

According to Fortune Global 500

# In Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington:

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26.5% of residents volunteer

1,367,200 volunteers

30.0 volunteer hours per capita

142.8 million hours of service

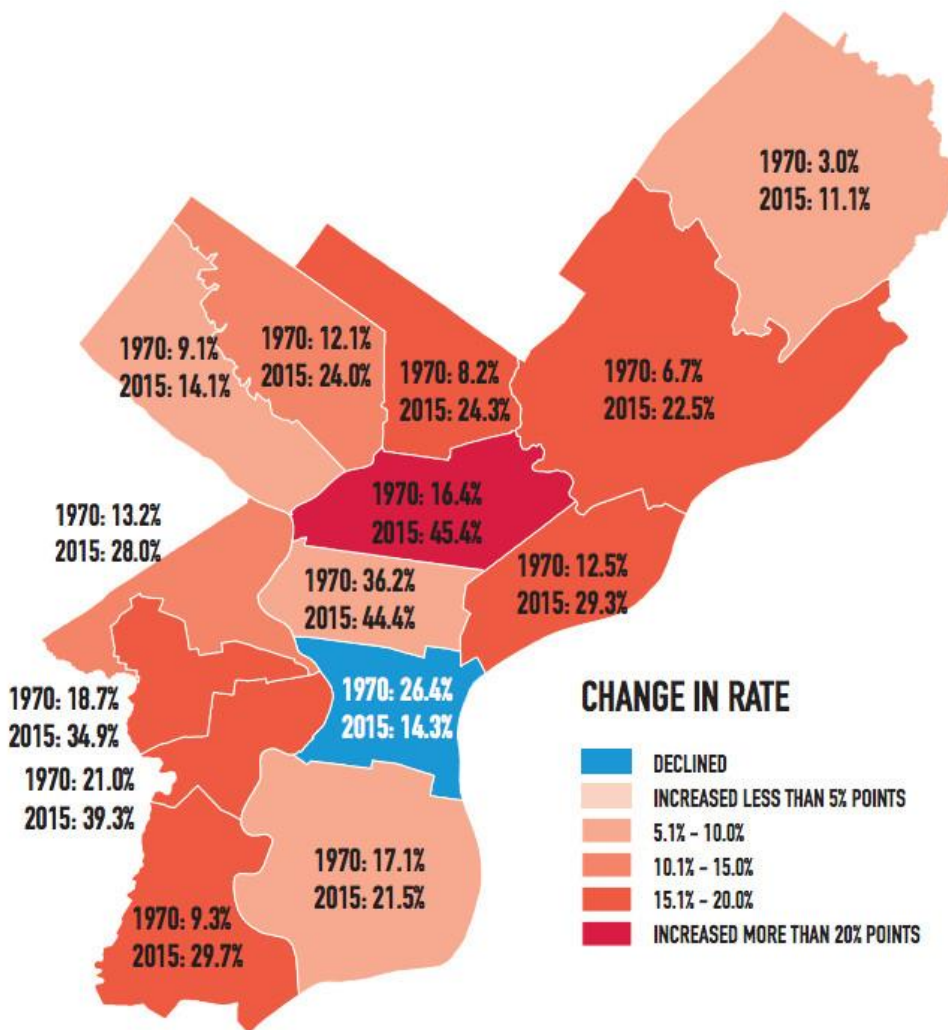
\$3.3 billion of service contributed

55.6% of residents donate \$25 or more to charity

*Source: Corporation for National & Community Service*

# Philadelphia Poverty

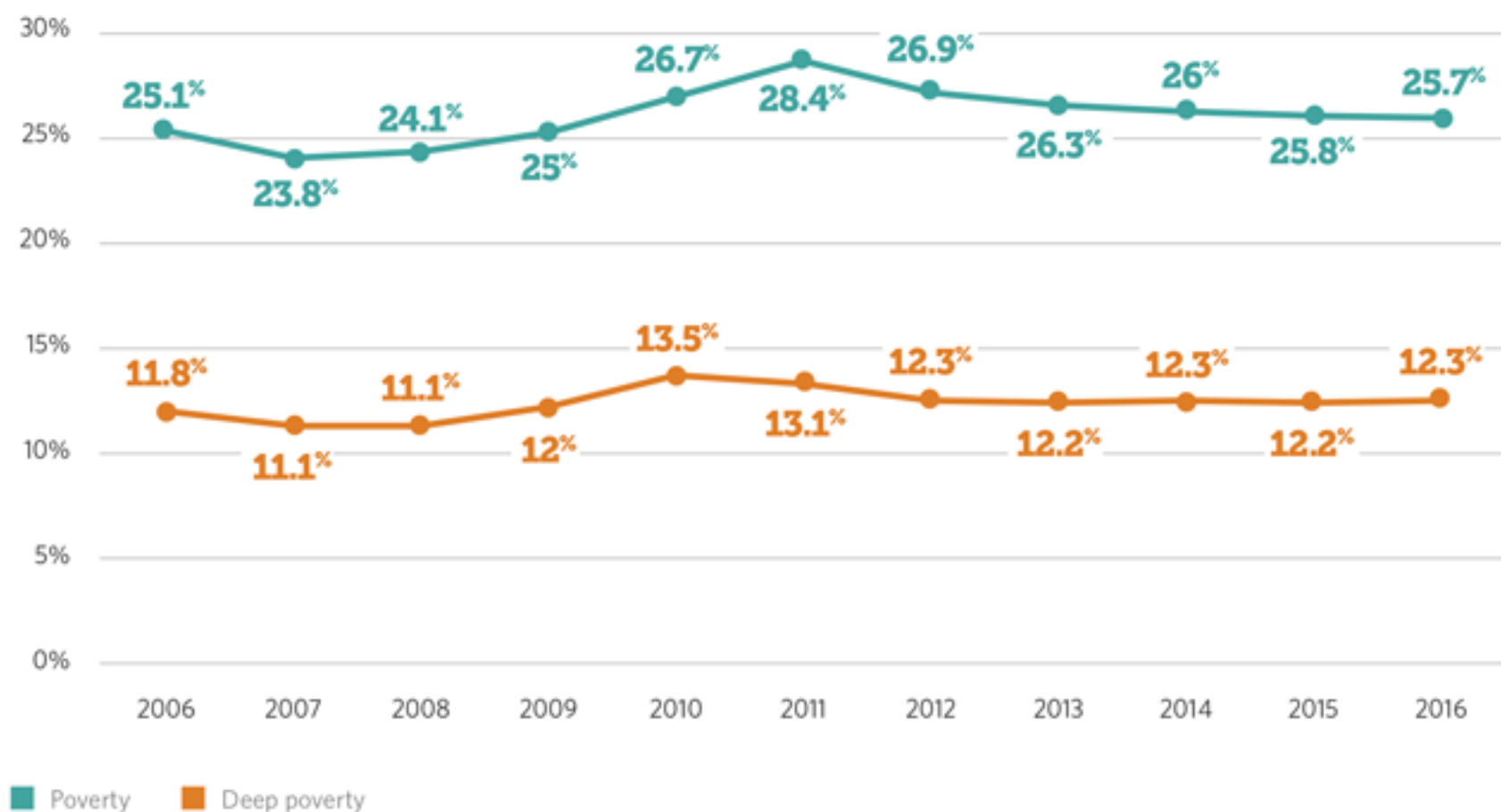
FIGURE 2: CHANGE IN POVERTY RATES, 1970–2015



\*Boundaries on the maps above are based on Philadelphia City Planning Commission Districts.

Sources: U.S. Census 1970; ACS 2015 5-Year

## Philadelphia Poverty and Deep Poverty Rates, 2006 to 2016

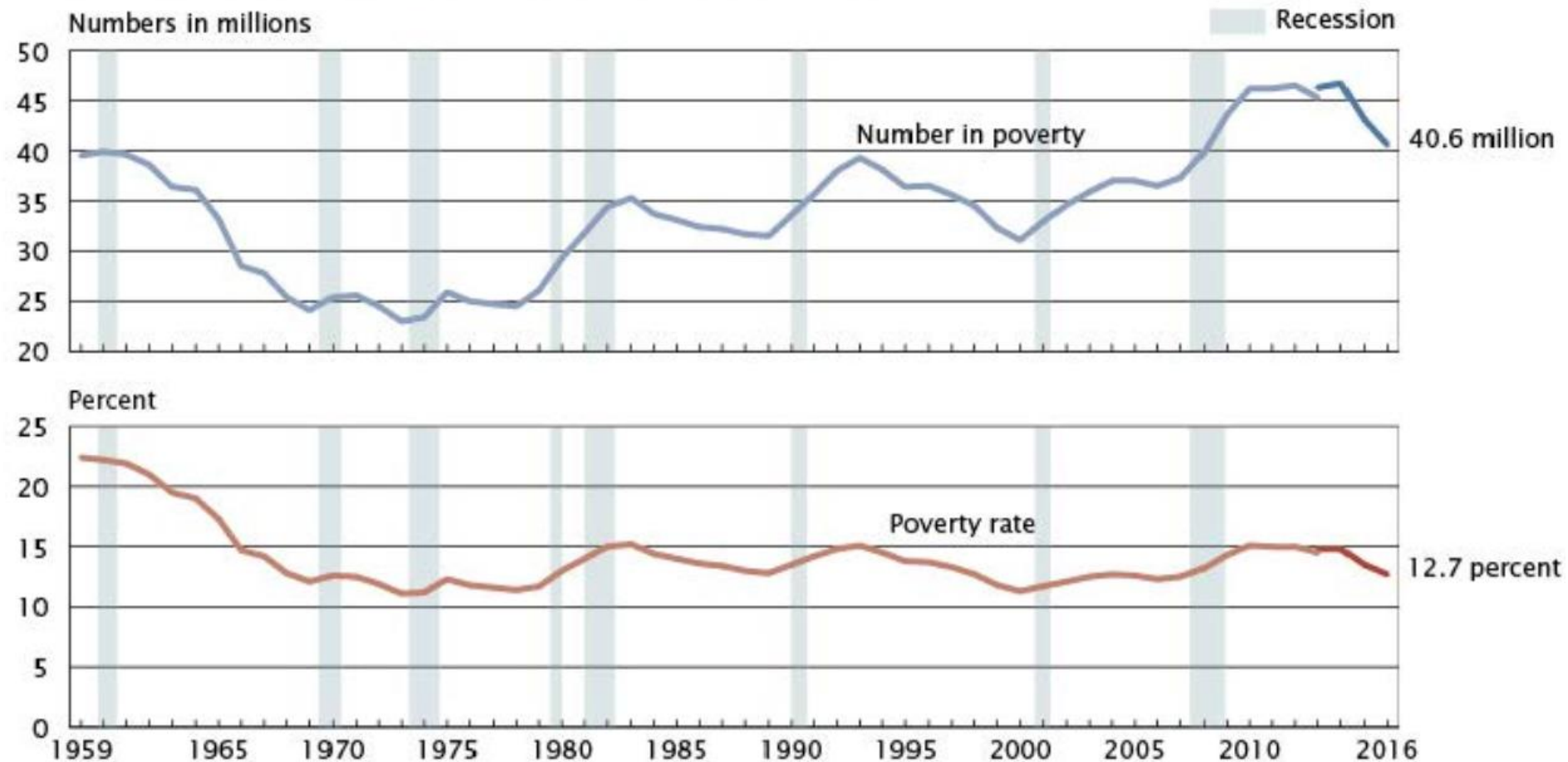


Note: Poverty is determined by income and by family size and composition. People in deep poverty are living on no more than half the poverty income threshold for their family type.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, one-year estimates

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Figure 4.  
**Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2016**



Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf](http://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf).

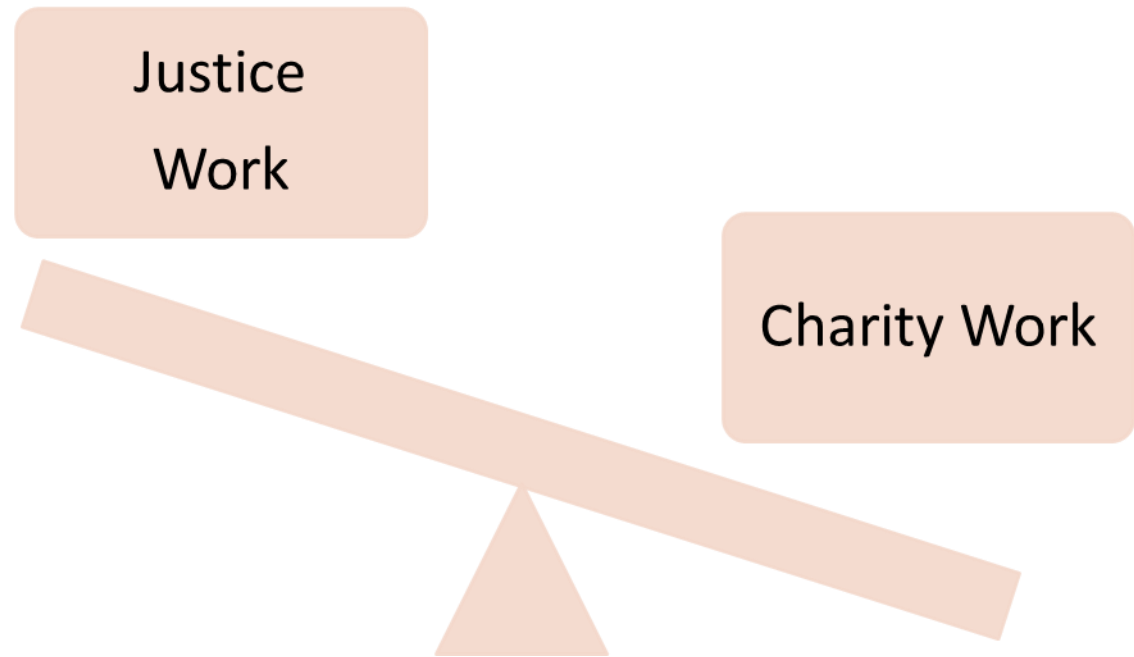
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2017 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.



# Social Justice and Charity should look like this...



However, it looks  
more like this...



# Discussion Question:

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*“Charity, as a supplement to justice, should be applauded. But charity as a substitute for justice is neither charity nor justice. It is cruelty.” –*

Kendzior, S., Al Jazeera 2013

Do you agree or disagree?

# Discussion Question:

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Can service programs negatively impact communities? Why or why not?

# Mandated Service

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Quantity over quality

Do students want to be there?

Could build stereotypes

# Days of Service

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## Drains Resources

- Community partners and schools

## Reinforces Stereotypes

Creates a “feel good” moment

Not usually humbling



# Disaster Relief

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## Service

- Lack of Skills/Training
- Drains community resources

## Donation Drives

- Shipping costs \$
- Items being donated
- Volunteer time to sort



# International Donations

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Destroys local economy

Dependence

Stereotypes





# Mission/Service Trips

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Displacing Local Labor Force

Lack of Skills/Training

Impacting Children Negatively

Hero Mentality/White savior complex



[Video](#)

# Discussion Questions:

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Do you agree or disagree with these community impacts?

Consider our programs. What specific changes can we implement to work in the direction of social justice?

# How do you make change...

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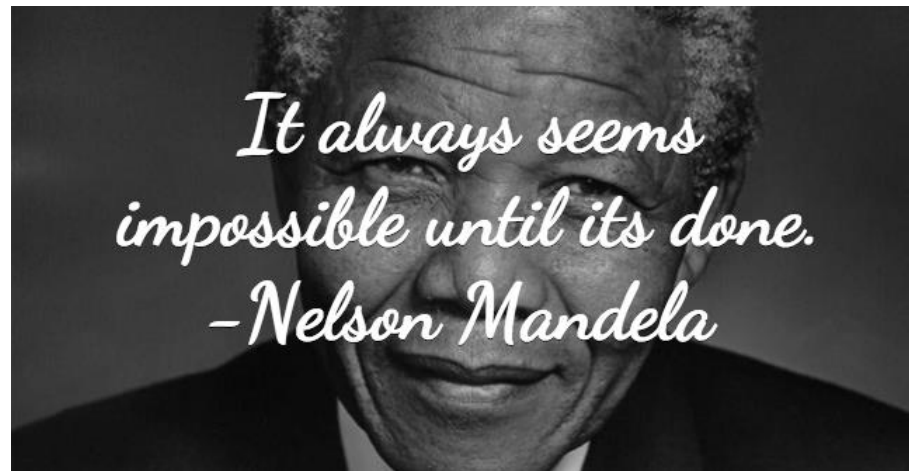
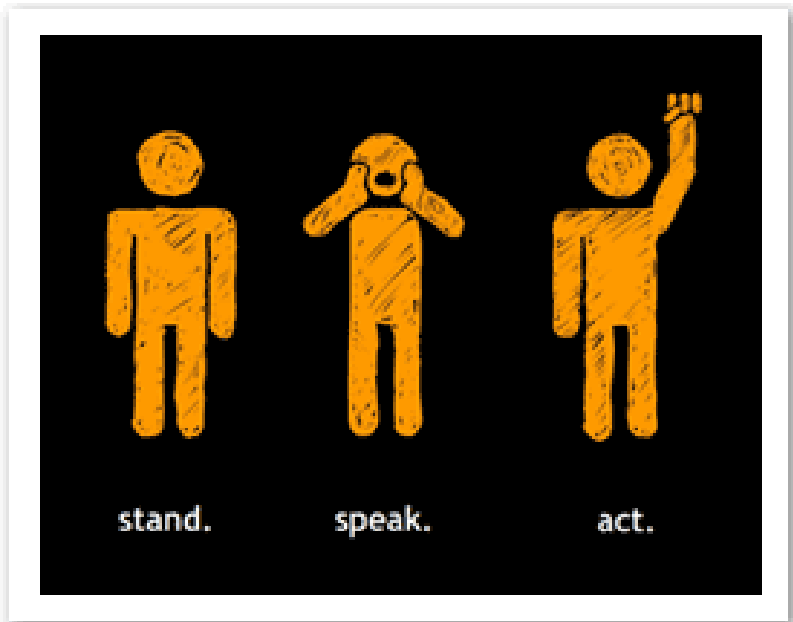
Become an ADVOCATE

Ways to create change:

- Join advocacy programs on campus
- Involve the media
- Vote
- Engage with your representatives
- Run for office

# Final Thoughts?

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